

ANNUAL REPORT

of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1948.

LIBRARY

Urban District Offices,

36 Market Place,

Warminster.

29th October, 1949.

To the Chairman and Members  
of the Warminster Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1948.

The resignation of Dr. D. F. Morgan in September, 1948, makes the report largely statistical; but some matter has been included from the reports he had submitted to the Council from time to time during the year.

J. REYNOLDS,

Medical Officer of Health.

1. Officers of the Council (Public Health Department)--

Medical Officer of Health:

Joseph Reynolds, M.C., L.R.C.P.&S.(Edin.), L.R.F.P. & S.  
(Glas.), D.P.H.(Eng.).

Surveyor, Engineer & Senior Sanitary Inspector:

W. Parks, M.I.Mun.E., C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Chartered  
Municipal Engineer.

Assistant Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector:

F. J. Reilly, M.I.Mun.E., M.R.S.I.

2. Statistics. (Figures for 1947 shown in brackets).

Area of the Urban District	...	5,651 acres.	(5,651).
Estimated Population	...	6,845	(6,522).
Number of Inhabited Houses (including huts)	...	1,862	(1,842).
Rateable Value at 1/4/49	...	£53,005	(£51,241).
Product of Penny Rate estimated 1948/49	...	£209	(£212).

3. Vital Statistics.

	Male.	Female.	Total.	
(a) Live Births registered	72.	74.	146	(162).
of which there were				
Illegitimate	...	...	11	(11).
Live Birth Rate per 1000 population			21.3.	
Live Birth Rate per 1000 population for England and Wales			17.9.	
Previous Years -- Birth Rates:				
	1947.	1946.	1945.	1944.
Warminster U.D...	24.8.	22.0.	18.4.	21.4.
England & Wales..	20.5.	19.1.	16.1.	17.6.

(2)  
Vital Statistics (continued).

	Male.	Female.	Total.
(b) <u>Infant Mortality.</u> ...	4.	2.	6.

There were no illegitimate infant deaths.

Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births).

Warminster U.D. ...	...	...	41.1.	{31}
England & Wales ...	...	...	34.0.	{41}

(c) Still Births.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate ...	2	1	3 {5}
Illegitimate ...	-	1	1 {-}
Totals ...	2	2	4 (5)

(d) Deaths. ... 33 36 69 (80)

Death Rate for the U.D. per 1,000 population...	10.1	{12.3}
Death Rate for England & Wales " "	10.8	{12.0}

4. Causes of Death.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
1. Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fevers ...	-	-	-
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever ....	-	1	1
3. Scarlet Fever ...	-	-	-
4. Whooping Cough ...	1	-	1
5. Diphtheria ....	-	-	-
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	-	1
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	-	-	-
8. Syphylitic Disease ...	-	-	-
9. Influenza ...	-	-	-
10. Measles ...	-	-	-
11. Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio Encephalitis ...	-	-	-
12. Acute Infantile Encephalitis ...	-	-	-
13. Cancer of the Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (M) Uterus (F) ...	-	-	-
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum...	1	2	3
15. Cancer of Breast ...	-	2	2
16. Cancer of all other sites ...	5	4	9
17. Diabetes ...	1	-	1
18. Intracranial Vascular Lesions...	1	7	8
19. Heart Disease ...	7	8	15
20. Other Diseases of the Circulatory System ...	2	2	4
21. Bronchitis ...	-	-	-
22. Pneumonia ...	1	-	1
23. Other Respiratory Diseases ...	1	-	1
24. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	-	-	-
25. Diarrhoea (under two years) ...	1	-	1
26. Appendicitis ...	-	-	-
27. Other Digestive Diseases...	-	2	2
28. Nephritis ...	2	-	2
29. Puerperal & Post Abortion Sepsis.	-	-	-
30. Other Maternal Causes ...	-	-	-
31. Premature Birth...	1	1	2
32. Congenital Malformation; Birth Injury, Infantile Disease ...	1	-	1
33. Suicide ...	-	-	-
34. Road Traffic Accident ...	2	-	2
35. Other Violent Causes ...	1	1	2
36. All Other Causes ...	4	6	10
	33	36	69

5. Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

The following diseases were notified among civilians during 1948:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total.
Whooping Cough	1	12	42	23	8	-	1	1	2	-	1	2	93
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-	47	42	35	5	-	1	-	-	130
Pneumonia	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Cerebro-spinal fever	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Amoebic Dysentery	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
													<u>231</u>

No schools were closed during the year because of infectious disease.

6. Diphtheria Immunization.

A clinic is held regularly on the fourth Friday in each month at the Town Hall under the aegis of the County Council. All medical practitioners in the district are willing to immunize any children under their general care. Parents are requested to have immunization completed before the child reaches the age of one year. No case of diphtheria occurred in the County among children known to have been immunized.

During 1948 the number of children in Warminster who completed a full course of primary immunization was 146. Reinforcing injections were given to 68 children.

Number of Children who had completed a Full Course of Immunization at any time up to 31.12.48.

<u>Age at 31.12.48.</u>	<u>Born in Year</u>	<u>Number.</u>
Under 1	1948.	2.
1	1947.	47.
2	1946.	75.
3	1945.	58.
4	1944.	60.
5 to 9	1939-1943.	403.
10 to 14	1934-1938.	373.
		<u>1016.</u>
Total under 15		

7. Tuberculosis.

New Cases notified in 1948 (including transfers in):

<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
Males.....	2.	Males.....	2.
Females.....	4.	Females.....	2.

Of these, 1 male and 2 females were transfers in from other districts.

Deaths from Tuberculosis in 1948.

<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
Males.....	1.	Males.....	-.
Females.....	-.	Females.....	-.

Number of Tuberculosis Cases to 31.12.48 (on the Register):

<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary:</u>	
Males.....	16.	Males.....	10.
Females.....	15.	Females.....	9.



## 8. Clinics.

The following County Council Clinics serve the district:

(a) Ante-natal:

At the Maternity Hospitals concerned.

Consultant Clinics are at Trowbridge for patients referred by their own doctor or midwife.

(b) Infant Welfare:

On the first and third Fridays of each month at the Methodist Chapel, George Street, at 2.30 p.m.

(c) Orthopaedic:

At Salisbury, Trowbridge and Devizes by invitation.

(d) Ear, Nose & Throat:

By invitation.

(e) Tuberculosis:

Trowbridge, every Wednesday at 10 a.m.

Salisbury, every Tuesday at 10 a.m.

(Children at 2 p.m.). By invitation.

(f) Venereal Diseases:

Men.

Women.

R.U.H. ) Friday, 5 p.m.

Tuesday, 5 p.m.

(Bath): ) Saturday, 5 p.m.

Friday, 2.30 p.m.

Salisbury Infirmary:

Tuesday, 11.30 a.m. Wednesday, 6 p.m.

Friday, 6 p.m. Saturday, 11.30 a.m.

Trowbridge (The Halve):

Thursday, 5 p.m.

Tuesday, 5 p.m.

(g) Diphtheria Immunization:

Warminster Town Hall. Fourth Fridays at 2.30 p.m.

And at Schools in the District and surrounding Villages under County Council arrangements.

## 9. Housing.

During 1948 the construction of houses on the Ferris Mead Estate was completed and all of the 44 houses were occupied. A start was made during the summer on the next housing project consisting of 16 three-bedroom-type houses at the Hillwood Estate, and good progress was made. By the end of the year approximately one-half of these houses were completed and occupied. Preparatory work was in hand with regard to further permanent housing proposals, and at the end of the year plans were being prepared in respect of the next site - The Ridgeway - on which it is proposed to erect 32 two-bedroom houses, 2 three-bedroom houses, and 8 aged persons bungalows. Towards the end of the year the Ministry of Health had intimated that the 32 two-bedroom-type houses could be proceeded with as the 1949 allocation.

Temporary housing arrangements were brought to completion at Boreham Camp, where there are now 72 huts converted to temporary dwellings, and in addition 35 huts which have been occupied by squatters, these having also now been taken over by the Council so far as general maintenance and repair is concerned. In this connection communal sanitary arrangements were provided towards the end of the year so that the accommodation is at present reasonably satisfactory, although there is some concern as to the future position, particularly as these huts are of a temporary character, and will deteriorate seriously during the next two years. There are 14 other ex-Army huts at the Drill Hall Site, which have also been occupied by squatters, and in this case also the Council have now accepted responsibility for essential repairs; but as in

(5)  
Housing (continued).

the case of the Boreham huts, the dwellings are not considered to be suitable for occupation except as a temporary expedient only.

In view of the large number of families (more than 100 in all) who are thus occupying sub-standard and short-lived accommodation at ex-W.D. camps apart from the large number of families in the district who are otherwise inadequately housed, the question of providing more permanent dwellings has become a matter of extreme urgency and presents a problem which is of acute concern to the Council.

10. Water Supply.

The supply to the Urban District is derived, as in previous years, from sources at Crockerton - Jersey Hill well, Holywell springs and Keepers Well. The quantity proved sufficient; the quality was only maintained by treatment as the bacteriological report shows:

Bacteriological Reports - Untreated Water.

		<u>Bacterio- logical Count. Per 1 ml.</u>	<u>Estimated Coli Acrogenes Count. Per 100 ml.</u>	<u>Estimated Faecal B. Coli Count. Per 100 ml.</u>
19.7.48.	Jersey Hill Well ...	63	180 plus	180 plus
"	Holy Well Springs ...	4	35	5
"	Keepers Well ...	2	25	3
6.12.48.	Jersey Hill Well ...	42	180 plus	160
"	Holy Well Springs ...	10	160	-
"	Keepers Well ...	22	180 plus	50

Bacteriological Reports - Treated Water.

12.1.48.	Office Tap, U.D.C.	-	-	-
27.1.48.	" "	-	-	-
9.2.48.	" "	-	-	-
16.2.48.	Chapel Street	-	-	-
1.3.48.	Unknown	1	3	-
8.3.48.	Chapel Street	-	-	-
15.3.48.	" "	-	-	-
15.3.48.	Office Tap	3	-	-
5.4.48.	Unknown	-	5	5
19.4.48.	Bell & Crown P.H.	-	-	-
3.5.48.	" "	-	-	-
10.5.48.	" "	-	-	-
24.5.48.	" "	4	-	-
7.6.48.	" "	-	-	-
21.6.48.	" "	-	-	-
5.7.48.	" "	4	3	-
19.7.48.	" "	1	-	-
9.8.48.	" "	2	3	-
23.8.48.	" "	3	-	-
6.9.48.	" "	1	3	-
27.9.48.	" "	3	3	-
8.11.48.	" "	1	-	-
22.11.48.	" "	3	5	-
6.12.48.	" "	1	-	-
20.12.48.	" "	1	3	-

Residual chlorine has been maintained between limits of 0.00 minimum and 0.10 maximum parts per million. The  $P_H$  has varied between 7.0 and 6.6 as a result of treatment with soda ash to combat any tendency to plumbo-solvency.

Number of Dwelling Houses supplied from Public Water Mains:

(a) Direct to the houses, 1804; (b) by means of standpipes, 54.

Number of Population supplied from Public Water Mains:

(a) Direct to the houses, 6667; (b) by standpipes, 162.



11. Sewage.

There was no change in the method of sewage disposal - by screening, land irrigation, and sludge beds. Progress is being made on the new sewage works.

12. Refuse.

Semi-controlled tipping was continued on the Furneaux Lane site. Disinfection of the tip is carried out at frequent intervals with satisfactory results.

13. Rats and Mice.

The work of the Rodent Officer continues to be shared by the Westbury Urban and Warminster and Westbury Rural District Councils.

14. Sanitary Inspections.

An analysis of the Sanitary Inspections made during the year is attached.

Housing (including Council Houses and Flats, etc.)...	923
Overcrowding ...	35
Factories and Workshops ...	57
Cowsheds and Dairies ...	62
Ice Cream Manufacture ...	13
Fried Fish Shops...	16
Bakehouses ...	27
Meat Shops and Stores ...	34
Offensive Trades...	9
Schools ...	3
Tents, Vans and Sheds ...	23
Rat Infestation ...	36
Infectious Diseases ...	7
Water Supplies ...	36
Sewage Disposal ...	52
Refuse Collection and Disposal	46
Works in Progress..	224
Meat and other Foods ...	54
Miscellaneous ...	28
Total ...	1750

Notices Served.

	<u>Informal.</u>	<u>Statutory.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
P ublic Health Acts ...	14	-	14
Housing Acts ...	5	-	5
Other Statutes ...	11	-	11
	30	-	30
Outstanding, Dec., 1946	11	-	11
	41	-	41
Complied with ...	37	-	37
Outstanding, Dec., 1947	4	-	4

Sanitary Inspections (continued).Foodstuffs Condemned as Unfit for Human Consumption.

<u>Commodity.</u>		<u>Weight.</u>	
		<u>Cwt.</u>	<u>st. lbs.</u>
Carcass meat	...	3	9
Cheese	...	12	11
Fish ...	...	7	11
Bacon ...	...	3	1
Fruit, Cereals and Flour	...	6	10
Canned Foods	...	8	4
Total weight condemned...		19	2

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.

<u>Number of</u> <u>Register.</u>	<u>Number of</u> <u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Number of</u> <u>Written</u> <u>Notices.</u>	<u>Number of</u> <u>Occupiers</u> <u>Prosecuted.</u>
35	57	Nil	Nil.

Number of Cases in which Defects were Found.

	<u>Found.</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>	<u>Referred by</u> <u>H.M. Inspector</u>
Insufficient Sanitary Conveniences	3	2	3

The Number of Outworkers in August, all engaged in the Cleaning and Washing, Making, etc., of Wearing Apparel, was 190.

15. Long Term Planning.

Further consideration was given during the year to the re-development of a portion of the central built-up area of the town, particularly with a view to providing a charabanc and car park and additional public conveniences. Already the Ridgeway housing site (referred to above) has been extended considerably in that way.

A preliminary selection of two more housing sites was made and possible school sites discussed with the County Education Authority.

The ultimate improvement of the system of refuse collection and disposal received some attention during 1948, while progress was made with the construction of a 500,000-gallons reservoir in connection with the Auxiliary Waterworks, and with the resumption of the pre-war programme of gradually re-constructing the main sewerage of the town. Also, a tender was accepted for the first section of new sewage disposal works.

